

**INDIANAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT
EMS COMMUNICATIONS CENTER TRACKING TRUCK,
TRAIN HAZMAT CARGOES WITH “OPERATION RESPOND” SOFTWARE**

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - When an accident involving the transportation of potentially dangerous materials occurs, local emergency response officials need accurate information about the material as quickly as possible. Using new software donated to the Indianapolis Fire Department and EMS Communications Center by Conrail (NYSE: CRR), local responders can check shipments directly on the mainframe computer systems of the railroad and trucking companies transporting the materials.

The Operation Respond Emergency Information System (OREIS) allows first responders to immediately access the information they need to deal appropriately with hazardous materials, so they can better protect their communities and themselves.

Conrail, CSX, Norfolk Southern and Amtrak are among the companies whose mainframe computers are accessible to the Indianapolis Fire Department via OREIS. The center handles communications for eight Marion County fire departments and the Wishard Hospital Ambulance Service.

Emergency responders arriving at the scene of a hazardous materials incident can use OREIS to obtain quick and accurate information from those computers on the material, often in less than one minute. Included in the data is guidance on how to deal with a particular situation based on the location, the weather, and the material involved.

“Hazmat accidents involving the railroad are exceedingly rare, but when one does happen, we’ll be able to respond much more effectively thanks to the new software, which also gives us access to the shipment data bases of some trucking companies,” said Rick Batza, Communications Manager at the center for the Indianapolis Fire Department.

Conrail is donating the OREIS software, along with funding for one year’s worth of upgrades, to communities where it has major facilities as part of its ongoing effort to emphasize transportation safety.

“We chose Indianapolis to be one of the first communities to receive this software because we have a major classification yard here. We also want to thank the community and its emergency personnel for their outstanding cooperation with us since we began operations in 1976,” said Ronald J. Conway, Conrail’s Senior Vice President-Operations.

“Transportation safety is not an accident. It is the result of disciplined effort, training and on-going diligence. Indianapolis has gone out of its way to work with us and to keep its emergency responders fully briefed and educated on our operations and on how to handle transportation emergencies,” he said.



"We think the Operation Respond system is a valuable resource for any community that might have to deal with hazardous materials emergencies," said Skip Elliott, Conrail's Director-Hazardous Material Systems. "We have worked closely with emergency responders in the Indianapolis area training them to deal with hazardous materials situations. This software package complements that training very effectively."

Conrail has conducted extensive hazardous materials incident training for fire and police departments in the area, combining classroom lectures with hands-on training.

Operation Respond, a not-for-profit institute, was created in November 1992 as a cooperative effort between the Federal Railroad Administration and the Port Terminal Railroad of Houston. Today, Operation Respond is a broader public/private partnership of the public and industry public safety community. Operation Respond is jointly funded by the Department of Transportation, rail and truck freight carriers, and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

Conrail, with corporate headquarters in Philadelphia, operates an 11,000 mile rail freight network in 12 Northeastern and Midwestern states, the District of Columbia and the Province of Quebec.

Conrail releases are archived on the World Wide Web: <http://www.conrail.com>.

SOURCE: Conrail

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